



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
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Jill R. Myers
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jill R. Myers, Town Manager

DATE: April 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report for the BOS Meeting of April 9, 2007

FY08 BUDGET REVIEW MEETING

I convened a meeting with the Chairmen of the BOS, FinComm, School Committee as well as the Schools Superintendent, Business Manager and Finance Director to work towards a strategy to address the FY08 budget deficit. Without a plan, all roads lead to a raid on stabilization which is not fiscally responsible. All agree that the next three years are going to be very difficult (and future needs/limitations have to be considered with the FY08 deliberations). The Town has relied upon Free Cash for years to balance the budget. Many options and combinations thereof were discussed including presenting an unbalanced budget to the May Town Meeting, with action at a Special or Fall meeting between May and November once final revenue numbers presented, free cash certification, and local receipts/state aid numbers are in - with possible use of some amount in stabilization; unbalanced budget in May with a contingent vote of an override to fund the balance; use of Stabilization to balance the FY08 budget in May; and to balance the budget with further operational reductions. Capital needs are prevalent and the Town's infrastructure needs (roads, bridges, and drainage) are substantial and impacts future economic development.

I have also continued work on the FY08 budget and have run various scenarios that I hope to discuss with the BOS and FinComm prior to the conclusion of the FinComm hearings. One scenario is a balanced budget which will greatly impact services and reduce staffing town-wide. This is not my preference, but is a realistic approach to maintain a conservative balance in Stabilization and not present an override. You will be provided with a three year Town-wide budget forecast on 4/9 which will demonstrate the continued limited revenues with rising fixed cost, which will serve as a good segue, in addition to the above, for the discussion Chairman Woods will facilitate on core services that each department needs to offer -- and protect. I will provide the final budget recommendations next week with an updated message. I plan to promote the budget message and circulate it as much as possible prior to Town Meeting.

FY08 SCHOOL TOWN BUILDING MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

Subcommittee Chairman Bombara circulated a project update and pending listing to FinComm and the BOS.

43 D TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT SUBMITTAL

I submitted the technical assistance grant on 4/4 and have provided you a copy of the submission under a separate cover. I am requesting \$150,000 to:

- Acquire permitting software and the training required to implement it;

- Secure necessary legal assistance with Special Land Use Counsel to assist the Planning Board and permitting authorities;
- Formalize through rules and regulations of the various boards and agencies (Permitting Authorities) the jurisdiction review of the development of the priority site, and (if necessary) by-law changes, and establish the process for development of the designated site – coordinated by Special Counsel;
- Ensure that all permitting of the designated site is completed; and
- Evaluate and plan for the long-term planning and fiscal impacts of the development of the designated site town wide by completing a Master Plan for the Town.

Permitting Software	\$20,000
Implementation and Training	\$ 5,000
Outside Consultants	
Master Planner/Fiscal Analyst	\$ 80,000
Land Use Counsel	<u>\$ 45,000</u>
TOTAL	\$150,000

The Interagency Permitting Board, Executive Office of Economic Development will consider it at their meeting on 4/11.

LEGAL STATUS UPDATE: GRIFF VS. TOWN OF UXBRIDGE

We received notification from Town Counsel that Judge Cornetta has ordered Mr. Griff to pay the Town \$18,069.48 in fees and costs associated with the Town's pursuit of contempt complaints against him.

AUDIBLE CROSSWALK AT THE COA: REQUEST TO MA HIGHWAY

A member of the COA has requested, via the Public Safety Committee, to have an audible crosswalk put outside the Senior Center. A plan is already in place to redesign and reconstruct the sidewalks from the Blackstone River Bridge to the Hartford Ave. intersection including South and North Main Streets. Part of this reconstruction will include the resolution of any handicapped access issues. This request will be addressed as part of the overall larger project.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

In previous correspondence, I informed you that we have hired a new Town Accountant: Justin Cole. Justin will be starting work on April 10, 2007. We are pleased to welcome him to the Town of Uxbridge.

In addition, I have begun crafting a transition plan for the position of Director of Planning and Economic Development. This position will be vacant as of 7/23/07.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT TO FILL UPCOMING VACANCY OF SUSAN BLOOMBERG

I have completed the interview process to fill the upcoming vacancy. However, Chairman Bloomberg has agreed to stay on the Board until April 16 due to the final review date of the Waucantuck mill project. I will be considering the appointments over the next week and will make a final decision shortly. I am very appreciative of those community members who took the time to apply and interview for this position. I found their insight very informative.

CONCERNS RELATIVE TO DOG ISSUE ON POND STREET

The Police Chief and Animal Control Officer will host an informational meeting regarding dog issues on Pond Street for concerned citizens to educate them on the enforcement process and how to protect themselves from animals at large. The Chief is working with the residents to schedule a meeting date in the next week or two.